

**Council on Postsecondary Education  
Committee on Equal Opportunities  
February 20, 2006**

**Kentucky Plan for Equal Opportunities  
2006 Degree Program Eligibility**

*This assessment is an annual report card that describes institutional success in implementing strategies to achieve the objectives of the 1997 – 2002 Kentucky Plan for Equal Opportunities that promotes compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.*

Based on the degree of success in enrolling, retaining, and hiring African Americans, fewer of Kentucky's public postsecondary institutions qualified for the most favorable category of eligibility for new programs in 2006 (54.2 percent) compared to 2005 (57.7 percent). The number of institutions evaluated decreased from 26 to 24 because the KCTCS continues to merge community and technical colleges located in close proximity to each other to create districts.

Six universities, compared to seven in 2005, are automatically eligible to propose new degree programs. One university received the quantitative waiver status and one university received the qualitative waiver status. Kentucky State University showed continuing progress on each of its seven Kentucky Plan objectives, while Northern Kentucky University and the University of Louisville showed continuing progress on all Kentucky Plan objectives. Western Kentucky University showed continuing progress on seven of eight Kentucky Plan objectives. Among the universities, the performance of two declined, one improved, and five were unchanged.

In the Kentucky Community and Technical College System, seven districts are automatically eligible to propose new degree programs, compared to eight the previous year. Three institutions received the quantitative waiver status, and three received the qualitative waiver status. Gateway Community and Technical College, Hazard Community and Technical College, and Owensboro Community and Technical College, are not eligible to propose new programs in 2006 because new programs were implemented in 2005 under a waiver provision. None of the three institutions made sufficient progress on the Kentucky Plan objectives to be eligible in the current evaluation year. The number of KCTCS districts falling into the qualitative (least desirable) category decreased from five in 2005 to three in 2006.

Bluegrass Community and Technical College, Hopkinsville Community College, and Jefferson Community and Technical College showed progress on all Kentucky Plan objectives. Three KCTCS districts showed continuous progress on only one of the four Kentucky Plan objectives. Among the 16 districts, two improved their performance (Big Sandy and Southeast), 11 performed at the same level, and the performance of three declined.

African Americans make up 5.4 percent of total black and white faculty (404 of 7,462) in the postsecondary system, including 4.9 percent (261 of 5,375) at traditionally white four-year

institutions, 4.5 percent (87 of 1,951) at the KCTCS institutions and districts, and 41.2 percent (56 of 136) at Kentucky State University. Proportionately, African American faculty continues to have the greatest representation at Kentucky State University.

African Americans make up 8.0 percent of total black and white executives/administrative/managerial staff (110 of 1,368) in the postsecondary system including 6.0 percent (66 of 1,105) at traditionally white four-year institutions, 5.0 percent (11 of 221) at KCTCS institutions and districts, and 78.6 percent (33 of 42) at Kentucky State University.

African Americans make up 7.1 percent of total black and white professional staff (549 of 7,761) in the postsecondary system including 6.1 percent (418 of 6,833) at traditionally white four-year institutions, 6.2 percent (470 of 7,640) at KCTCS and districts, and 65.3 percent (79 of 121) at Kentucky State University.

In fall 2004, Kentucky resident African Americans made up 8.1 percent of total black and white Kentucky resident undergraduate students (11,325 of 139,778) in the postsecondary system, including 7.1 percent (5,169 of 72,376) at traditionally white four-year institutions, 8.4 percent (5,529 of 66,056) at KCTCS institutions, and 46.6 percent (627 of 1,346) at Kentucky State University. 53 percent of 1,965 first-time degree-seeking students were retained from fall 2004 to fall 2005 compared to 63.3 percent of 18,924 whites during the same period. And, 33.9 percent of the 1999 cohort of 824 Kentucky resident African American students graduated within six years of enrolling compared to 50.1 percent of the 1999 cohort of 9,005 whites.

Following review by the committee, the staff will forward the degree program eligibility status reports to the institutional presidents and members of the Council on Postsecondary Education.